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Your Highest Hopes...

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YOU'LL be bringing your castles in the air down to earth as well as carrying on a lovely but worthwhile tradition when you begin filling your hopechest. And you'll want to get an early start on this project since you want it complete and ready when you move into a home of your own someday.

First of all make a list of what things you'll need to fill your hopechest. Here are some suggestions for the necessities:

In the linen line: 4 luncheon sets; 1 or 2 damask or lace cloths with matching napkins; 1 or 2 table pads; 2 sets bridge cloths with matching napkins.

For each bed: 1 mattress pad; 4 sheets; 3 pillow cases for each pillow; 2 blankets or 1 electric blanket; 2 spreads; 2 sets bureau or dressing table covers.

For the bathroom: 2 hand towels, 4 bath towels, 4 wash cloths, for each person; 6-12 guest towels; 2 bath mats.

For the kitchen: 6 pot holders; 16 dish towels.

It's no problem at all to get most of the articles mentioned above. Any department store can supply your sheets, pillow cases, hand and bath towels, washcloths, and dresser scarves.

Make them yourself

But why not make some of the articles for your hopechest? It's fun to make a beautiful luncheon set from a plain strip of linen or to make a brightly-colored hot pad holder from a fat ball of cotton yarn. It's fun because you can make it yourself and have the satisfaction of being able to do something useful and productive.

After investigating all these sources of information you'll find that the hundreds of suggested projects can be divided into three main groups according to the time and skill required to complete these articles.



Your Highest Hopes . . .

by

Gayle Dunn

Home Economics Freshman

The first group can be said to be relatively easy, taking only a small amount of time, and will acquaint you with the skills which will be used in more advanced projects. These are the "starters" which you will find are fun to do and are a valuable part of your hopechest. Knitting fish-net dishcloths out of cotton yarn or painting potato chip cans with your favorite colors to be used for wastepaper cans are two easy projects. And you can take some 1/2-inch sheets of cork, cut 10 inch circles from them and have useful insulated mats to place hot dishes on. Knitting bright colored hot pad holders from thick cotton yarn will improve your knitting skill and also increase the articles in your fast-growing hopechest.

After you've completed these first articles you're ready to move into the second group. In this group are embroidered pillow cases, guest towels, and dresser scarves, stencil-painting on terrycloth towels and dresser scarves, and pottery painting. You can also fringe butcher-linen to make a tablecloth and napkin set with several matching place mats. You'll find that if you make your own luncheon sets you can make two sets for the price you'd pay for one at a retail store. This is true for almost every article mentioned so far. For those who like to crochet there are place-mats, pin cushions, and doilies to make.

Hardest projects

In the third class are grouped the hardest yet most rewarding projects. They are the most expensive and require more skill. But the biggest factor is the amount of time that each requires for completion. Such articles as hooked rugs, needlepoint pillows and seat-covers, crocheted tablecloths and bedspreads, and re-finished furniture take many hours to complete. But when you put the finishing touches on your masterpiece and sit back to admire it, the satisfaction in seeing the beauty that your hands created is well worth the time you spent.

Upon completing the third class you'll have a hopechest that will be the envy of everyone. And when they admire it and say, "I wish I were talented like you," tell them how you acquired this talent and what a wonderful pastime it proved to be. By purchasing some of the articles for your chest from the store and by making the remainder, you can make a beautiful, complete hopechest that will be a joy to use for years and years. Better get busy right away!